

10/089,393

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**1. Please amend paragraph [0003] as follows:**

With the increasing number of users on the Internet comes the increasing probability that a single server will become inundated with requests for a resource a resource. The result is often slow response times, large queues, and even system failure, despite the probable availability of alternate servers that could aid the primary server by off loading some of its tasks. This creates a problem of both resource over-utilization and resource under-utilization, both of which result in negative financial impact.

2. Please amend paragraph [0004] as follows:

To alleviate these issues, an art known as 'load balancing' has been developed. Local load balancing systems are known, mostly based on hardware switches that route resource requests to one of a plurality of mirrored (i.e. containing identical content/resources) servers, giving the external appearance of a single, high-powered server. Global server load balancing systems have also recently emerged that attempt to distribute the traffic directed to any given server to a plurality of servers, ~~which are~~ which are geographically distributed. See, for example, the approaches of Akamai (~~www.akamai.com~~) and Digital Island (~~www.digisite.net~~) for the distribution of web traffic.

3. Please amend paragraph [0014] as follows:

In FIG. 1, a system 5 generally comprises a requesting computer 10 communicating with a providing computer 30 to obtain access to a resource 35. Optionally (a) a directory hosting computer ~~[[30]]~~ 20 may host a resource directory 22, (b) the providing computer 30 may provide access to other resources 36, 37, 38, and (c) an additional providing computer 40 may provide access to additional resources 45, 46, 47. Communication paths 11, 12, 13, 31, 32 provide one or two way connectivity among the various elements as shown.